

Mr. Escovedo's professional legacy includes being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Latin Grammys, performing with industry notables Herbie Hancock, Bill Summers, Tito Puente, and penning his own book, "My Life in the Key of E."

Mr. Escovedo's list of accomplishments extends beyond his professional pursuits, as a devoted husband to his wife, Juanita Gardere, and father to 4 kids, Sheila, Juan, Peter, and Zina. His children inherited Mr. Escovedo's love and talent for music, and together, they are lovingly accepted as the Bay Area's First Family of Latin and Contemporary Jazz. Furthermore, Mr. Escovedo's legacy is carried on by his daughter Sheila, who has become an industry titan herself, earning the moniker the "Queen of Percussion."

It has been a fantastic journey watching Mr. Escovedo play and create beautiful music over the years. His passion and skill have inspired generations of musicians and will continue to do so. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to the music industry.

As he embarks on his Retirement Tour, starting in Oakland, I want to wish Mr. Escovedo the best of luck. On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of California, I am proud to honor Peter Escovedo for his tremendous achievements. Congratulations again.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HOWELL'S FIRST BLACK RESIDENT, ABRAHAM LOSFORD

##### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Abraham Losford, the first Black resident of Howell, Michigan—a brave man who escaped slavery and used the trade he learned while captive to build a life of freedom for his family and for generations to come.

It was 1849 when Abraham Losford fled north with nothing but his clippers from Kentucky where he had been enslaved and served as a plantation barber. He was captured, escaped again, and after Emancipation, returned to free his children, Benjamin and Sally. The plan was to travel to Lansing, Michigan, via the Old Plank Road and open a barber shop, but when Losford stopped in Howell to change stagecoaches, he was convinced to stay in the small town. The people of Howell promised to keep him safe if he would stay and open up a barber shop, which they sorely needed. It was a deal both sides would forever uphold.

Losford and his barber business both thrived in Howell, and he became a successful, respected businessman in the predominantly white community—no small feat for a former slave in the years following the end of the Civil War. Newspaper ads from the time boast of his salon offering "Shaving, Shampooing, and Hairdressing" for both men and women, and it was noted in the local press that when Losford fell ill, a band of 60 kids and adults joined together to bring him gifts and money in a show of support and affection for the beloved town barber.

Abraham passed the trade to his son, who went on to open a barber shop of his own in the Town of Edmore, Michigan. Today, Ben's

story—and that of his father—are immortalized in the children's book "Benjamin Losford and his Handy, Dandy Clippers." It is the story of how skill equals freedom, and a potent reminder that we must all make the most of the tools we have been fortunate enough to receive.

Abraham Losford died in 1897 and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in downtown Howell. His obituary states that quote, "His presence, as well as his open, manly character, was a living reminder of the sin of slavery. Many winters will come and go before the name of 'Old Uncle Abe' is forgotten in the community." Mr. Speaker, I ask that his name and his accomplishments live forever in our hearts and minds.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE MARY JANE GALER

##### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a devoted wife, loving mother, doting grandmother, noted historian, professional librarian, distinguished author, thoughtful teacher, dedicated public servant and dear friend of longstanding, The Honorable Mary Jane Perkins Galer. Sadly, Representative Galer transitioned this life on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. A celebration of her remarkable life was held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at The First Presbyterian Church in Columbus, GA attended by a host of friends, family, and admirers.

The genesis of Mary Jane Galers journey began with her birth in Port Arthur, Texas in 1924. Always seeking to quench her thirst for knowledge, she attended and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1945 with a B.A. in Education. This led to the commencement of her professional career as a teacher and librarian. She went on to earn a Master's degree in Library Science from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1947.

Mary Jane was able to merge her love of travel and serving others when she became an Army Special Services Librarian. This responsibility involved setting up libraries for soldiers at bases around the world, helping these soldiers increase their love of knowledge and learning. In 1951, during one of these assignments, she met and married her husband of 66 years, the late U.S. Army LTC (Ret.) Robert Fulton Galer. The Galer Family moved to Columbus, Georgia in 1960, when her husband became Fort Benning's Inspector General and Mary Jane assumed the position of Post Librarian. In 1967, Mary Jane joined the staff of Columbus College, now Columbus State University, as a Librarian and Associate Professor.

Because of her love of public service, in 1976 she interrupted her pursuit of an advanced degree in Political Science to run for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. She and I were both elected during that election, and we became not only colleagues but dear friends. We frequently traveled to and from Atlanta together and often shuttled packages to her daughter Robin, who was a student at Georgia Tech. She used her time as

a legislator to champion the rights of women and children. Her legislative achievements include helping Georgia, Alabama, and Florida to agree on a water sharing plan, revising guardianship laws for incapacitated adults, removing the collaboration requirements in rape cases and strengthening child support laws to comply with Federal guidelines. Furthermore, she was a strong advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment and equal opportunity for all. She served in the Georgia General Assembly through 1988. As a result of her stellar public service, she received numerous public awards to include Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Public Service, Soroptimist Award and the Maxine Shapiro Goldenstein Freedom Award.

Mary Jane Galer accomplished much in her life but little of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her husband, the late U.S. Army LTC (Ret.) Robert Fulton Galer and her three children—Frank Fulton Galer, Robin R. Galer, and Barbara J. Neufeld. Her life was certainly made complete with the love of her grandchildren Jeni Neufeld and Katie Benner, as well as her three great grandchildren.

George Washington Carver once said that "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mary Jane, throughout her life exemplified these words. She was a lady of principle, character, dignity, grace, and grit. Our city, state, nation, and the world are better for her 98 years of life. To God be the Glory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, in honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable Mary Jane Galer and in extending our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones during this time of bereavement. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

#### RECOGNIZING 18 INCREDIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

##### HON. MICHAEL LAWLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize 18 incredible individuals from my community in honor of Black History Month.

The 17th Congressional District and New York State are home to much of this rich history. The Hudson River was once one of the main arteries of the Underground Railroad, illuminating a pathway to freedom for enslaved people. In Hillburn, we saw the precursor to one of the Supreme Court's landmark cases, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which paved the way for the fall of segregation and a full bill of civil rights to be passed at the federal level.

Last week, I held a ceremony to honor Vedeta Hanley, Jennifer Ogilvie, Pastor Jean Claude Dorcely, Roxanne Watson, Joyce